

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01375 141628Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01

SCCT-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /135 W

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R 141555Z AUG 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3802

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONGEN MUNICH

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR, PL, SF, GE

SUBJ: ARAFAT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN AUGUST 6-8

REF: WARSAW 4556

1. SEVEN-MEMBER PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY EXECUTIVE

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN YASSIR ARAFAT VISITED IN EAST BERLIN

AUGUST 6-8. AS IN PAST

ARAFAT'S MAIN CONTACT WAS GERHARD GRUENBERG, POLITBURO MEMBER AND SEDCC SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. SUBSEQUENT TALKS RECEIVED FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND THREE DAYS RUNNING, ALTHOUGH JOINT SED-PLO COMMUNIQUE APPEARED ONLY ON AUGUST 10, TWO DAYS AFTER ARAFAT DEPARTURE.

2. COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBED TALKS AS HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN "FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST" LEADING TO AGREEMENT FURTHER TO DEVELOP RELATIONS AND DEEPEN COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO PARTIES. SED WENT BEYOND MERE EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR "JUST STRUGGLE" FOR PALESTINIAN SELF-DETERMINATION BY RECOGNIZING PLO AS "LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF ARABIC PEOPLE OF PALESTINE" AND SUPPORTING ITS FULL PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT. IN BACKING FULL PARTICIPATION FOR PLO AT GENEVA TALKS, SED HAS GONE FURTHER THAN GOP, WHICH TOOK NO STAND ON PLO ROLE IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, THIS WAS IN LINE WITH STRONG SUPPORT FOR PLO EVINced BY GDR IN PAST. WHILE QUESTION OF OFFICIAL PLO REPRESENTATION CAME UP DURING ARAFAT'S DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW AND WARSAW, ARAFAT HAD NO CAUSE TO PRESS POINT IN EAST BERLIN, INASMUCH AS EAST BERLIN PLO OFFICE WAS OPENED IN OCTOBER, 1973.KLEIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, VISITS, COMMUNIQUE, POPULAR SUPPORT, SELFDETERMINATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BERLIN01375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740223-0651
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740849/aaaabqdc.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: WARSAW 4556
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <28 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAFAT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN AUGUST 6-8
TAGS: PFOR, PL, SF, GC, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASIR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005